

(a) whether it is a fact that the Finance Ministry is considering to allow foreign banks to acquire majority stake in some of the profit making Government of India-owned banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether this will dilute Government's commitment that the public sector character of public sector banks would not be changed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Supplementary Demands for Grants

243. SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Finance Ministry has indicated to various Ministries/Departments that no fresh expenditure proposal would be entertained for Supplementary Demands; and

(b) if so, what is the rationale behind such advice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) Although Ministries/Departments have been advised to adhere to Budget 2000-2001 as approved by Parliament, the proposals for first Batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants will be considered only in cases of recoupment of advance from the Contingency Fund of India, expenditure against court decrees additional expenditure attracting limitations of new service and certain unavoidable and inescapable additional expenditure.

Economic Packages for Orissa

244. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce any economic packages for Orissa;

(b) whether some major projects are being set up for the economic progress of the State;

(c) if so, the total amount of investment proposed to be made under those projects; and

(d) the details of the year of the completion scheduled for those projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) To aid the State Government in their relief and rehabilitation work, various measures have been taken by the Central Government viz., ensuring sufficient finances to the State through a combination of feasible releases, amounting to Rs. 1288.76 crores, re-phasing of recovery of loan repayment and payment of interest due from the Government of Orissa to the Ministry of Finance and additionality of Rs. 43 crore as Additional Central Assistance for Annual Plan 1999-2000. This would enable the State to meet the requirements of counter-part funding for availing World Bank Assistance for Restoration and Reconstruction work in Cyclone affected districts of Orissa. Govt. of India is also negotiating with the World Bank, a loan for Orissa amounting to US \$ 100 million under the Word Bank Assistance for Cyclone Reconstruction and Mitigation. DFID (UK) have provided a package of \$ 25 Mln. (approximately Rs. 175 crore) for the rehabilitation of the cyclone hit in Orissa. Govt of India, on 24.2.2000 has also constituted the Orissa Cyclone Reconstruction Authority (OCRA) to give consideration at the highest level to reconstruction and rehabilitation in the State. These steps, together with assistance from other Ministries of Central Government, including Defence Ministry, are all intended to come to the aid of the State Government in its relief and restoration work. Moreover to enable the Government of Orissa to achieve fiscal stability through the process of fiscal reforms initiated by them, Central Govt. has provided financial assistance to the State, by way of Extended Ways & Means facility of Rs. 200 crore and Additional Market Borrowings of Rs. 100 crore.

(b) to (d) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

Information in respect of major projects in Orissa under implementation as available in the Exception Report on Central Sector Projects (costing Rs. 100

crore and above), February-March, 2000 of the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation is given below:

S. No.	Name of the Project/Sector	Anticipated investment (Rs. in crore)	Likely date of completion
1.	Expansion of Bauxite Mine & Alumina Refinery (Mines)	1664.60	March, 2001
2.	Expansion of capacity of Smelter to CPP (Mines)	2061.98	May, 2002
3.	Talcher STPP ST-II (Power)	7669.64	February, 2006
4.	Lakhanpur OCP (Coal)	221.51	March, 2000
5.	Kalinga Int. Mine-cum-beneficiary project (Coal)	345.96	March, 2000
6.	Daitari-Keonjhar-Banspani (Railways)	594.98	Dec., 2003
7.	Boaro-Kriburu (Railways) (RE)	214.54	March, 2000
8.	Kharagpur-Bhubaneswar (Railways) (RE)	310.19	March, 2002
9.	Lanjigarh-Junagarh (Railways) NL	100.00	NA
10.	Bhubaneswar-Vizag (Railways) (RE)	292.27	March, 2002
11.	Nergundi-Cuttack-Rahunthpur LD (Railways)	118.79	August, 2002
12.	2nd Bridge on Birupa & Mahanadi (Railways)	107.41	NA
13.	Creation of Mechanised Coal Handling facilities (Surface Transport)	831.11	Dec., 2000
14.	4-laning of Bhubaneswar Cuttack-Jagatpur Section (NH-5) (Surface Transport)	266.51	Sept., 2000

Appointment on Compassionate Ground in PNB

245. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the rules for appointment on compassionate ground in Punjab National Bank, if the dependent of deceased is minor;

(b) whether Government are aware that Punjab National Bank has rejected various applications of compassionate appointment despite prior assurance of giving employment to the minor after attaining the age of eligibility;